

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the present amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

This amendment cancels claims 1, 2, 10-14, 16, and 31-36, amends claims 18, 19, and 37, and adds new claims 38-43. Also, by this amendment, corrected Figs. 1 and 2 are being submitted.

Claims 18 and 19 have been amended per the Examiner's suggestions. The amendments to claims 18 and 19 overcome the rejection of claims 18-21 and 23 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Since claims 18-21 and 23 were indicated as being allowable if amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection, allowance of claims 18-21 and 23 is respectfully requested.

The amendment to claim 37, which was indicated as allowable, rewrites claim 37 in independent form. Therefore, allowance of claim 37 is respectfully requested.

New claim 38 recites that at least a portion of the spool is a one-piece structure that is not formed from separate structures secured together. The portion of the spool that is the one-piece structure forms at least part of an axle and two support walls of the spool. The seat belt webbing is wound about the axle of the spool in a location between the two support walls. Gear teeth of the gear assembly are formed integrally on the one-piece structure of the spool.

The disclosure of the present invention supports the limitations of claim 38. Specifically, Fig. 2 shows a

sectional view of the spool and illustrates the portion of the spool that is a one-piece structure. As shown in Fig. 2, the one piece structure includes at least part of the axle 66 and two support walls 68 and 70. Gear teeth are formed integrally with the one-piece structure and are located at the periphery of support wall 70.

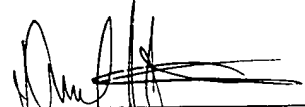
New claim 38 patentably defines over Sawato, JP 10-167003. Sawato fails to disclose a one-piece structure of the spool that forms at least part of an axle and two support walls. Sawato also fails to teach or suggest gear teeth of the gear assembly being formed integrally on the one-piece structure of the spool.

New claims 39-43 depend from claim 38 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 38. Additionally, claims 39-43 are allowable for the specific limitations of the claims.

Specifically, claim 39 recites that the gear teeth that are formed integrally on the one-piece structure of the spool are located on diametrically opposite sides of the axle. Sawato fails to teach or suggest this feature of claim 39. Therefore allowance of claim 39 is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in
the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account
No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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